

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 11, 12, and 16 through 19 are pending, with Claims 11 and 17 being independent. Claims 11 and 12 have been amended. Claims 16 through 19 have been added.

Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 3-200229 (“JP ‘229”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,673,262 (Tsuji). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Each of Claims 11 and 17 recites, inter alia, that the front optical system includes a plurality of lens elements, the rear optical system includes a plurality of lens elements, and the number of the lens elements of the rear optical system is greater than that of the lens elements of the front optical system.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that neither JP ‘229 nor Tsuji, even in combination, assuming, arguendo, that the documents could be combined, discloses or suggests at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, inter alia, in Claims 11 and 17.

In this regard, Applicant respectfully submits that while Fig. 1 of JP ‘229 schematically depicts the photographic optical system as one lens element, such a system actually needs three or more lens elements to correct chromatic aberration, and therefore JP ‘229 fails to disclose the claimed numerical relationship.

Applicant also respectfully submits that while Figs. 2, 4, and 5 of Tsuji show that the eyepiece optical system includes two or three lenses elements, and the photographic optical

system is schematically depicted as one lens element, the latter system actually needs three or more lens elements to correct chromatic aberration, and therefore Tsuji also fails to disclose the claimed numerical relationship.

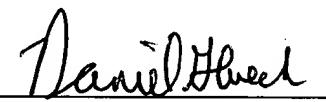
It is further respectfully submitted that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at such claimed features.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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